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reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C, utilizing a supply of OH⁻ from said water as a substitute for said basic catalyst.

A2
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5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein alcohol and carboxylic acid are generated from an aldehyde in the absence of catalyst without addition of the basic catalyst near the critical point of the supercritical water.

6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 4, wherein alcohol and carboxylic acid are generated from an aldehyde in the absence of catalyst without addition of the basic catalyst near the critical point of the supercritical water.--

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Please add new Claims 7-18 as follows.

--7. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed in water at 375 to 380°C and 22.5-25 MPa.

8. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said reaction is performed in water at 375 to 380°C and 22.5-25 MPa.

A3
9. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said reaction is performed in water at 375 to 380°C and 22.5-25 MPa.

10. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said reaction is performed in water at 375 to 380°C and 22.5-25 MPa.

11. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed in supercritical water.

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12. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed in subcritical water of at least 350°C.

13. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said reaction is performed in supercritical water.

14. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said reaction is performed in subcritical water of at least 350°C.

15. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed in supercritical water.

16. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed in subcritical water of at least 350°C.

17. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said reaction is performed in supercritical water.

18. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said reaction is performed in subcritical water of at least 350°C.--

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

The amendment to Claims 1 and 2 is supported at specification page 10, lines 18-21 and by the claims as originally filed. Note also specification page 13, lines 17-21. The amendments to Claims 5 and 6 simply add clarity. New Claims 7-10 are supported at specification page 9, lines 2-4. New Claims 11-18 are supported by Claims 1-4 as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.